

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 52-54 are herein canceled. Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of the grounds for rejection of these claims and preserve the right to present the rejected claims in a continuation application without prejudice.

No new matter is added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 35, 42 and 55-61 are active.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner McCracken for the indication that Claims 35, 42 and 55-61 are allowed.

Applicants further wish to thank Examiner McCracken for the useful and courteous discussion of this application with Applicants' U.S. representative on January 14, 2009. At that time, Applicants' U.S. representative reviewed the significance and meaning of "oxidizing agent" and noted Examples C1 and C2 wherein hydrogen peroxide is employed as the oxidizing agent.

The rejection of Claims 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Oyama et al. (U.S. 5,891,822) is moot in view of the cancellation of these Claims herein.

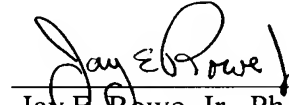
Application No. 10/519,399

Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2009

As the remaining active claims have been allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay E. Rowe, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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